

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 VO-03 SCA-01 /089 W

-----080116Z 058806 /20

R 071712Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 518

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM UN UK

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: DUBLIN 509

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "U.S. TO HOLD HEARINGS ON NORTH?",  
THE IRISH PRESS OF MARCH 7, CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.

2. "CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON HAVE INDICATED THAT  
THEY ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO HOLDING SPECIAL HEARINGS ON  
'HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND', ACCORDING  
TO A STATEMENT FROM THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS.

THE CAUCUS, WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT A WIDE RANGE OF IRISH  
AMERICAN GROUPS, HAS BEEN LOBBYING KEY CONGRESSMEN TO THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO  
INITIATE THESE HEARINGS FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

CAUCUS CO-O-ORDINATORS FR. SEAN MCMANUS AND DR FRED BURNS  
O'BRIEN WERE IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK FOR A SERIES OF  
MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS,  
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AND THE STATEMENT SAID THEY WERE WELL RECEIVED.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE, THEY SPENT TWO HOURS EXPLAINING THEIR  
VIEWS TO ONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSISTANTS. AFTERWARDS THEY  
SAID THEY HAD NOTED 'A CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE' THERE AND THAT  
PEOPLE SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE 'IRISH ISSUE.'

FR. MCMANUS COMMENTED: 'I FEEL THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN KEEPING MR CARTER'S PLEDGE TO US AT OUR MEETING LAST OCTOBER IN PITTSBURG. HE SAID THEN HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS ACCESSIBLE TO US. IT APPEARS WE CAN TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD.'

APART FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, ONE OF THE MATTERS THE CAUCUS LEADERS RAISED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE WAS THE RESTORATION OF VISA FACILITIES TO 'IRISH POLITICAL DISSIDENTS' - SUCH AS PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN PRESIDENT RUAIRI O BRADAIGH.

MEANWHILE ON HIS RETURN HOME AFTER A 3 DAY VISIT TO GENEGA, MR FRANK MCMANUS THE FORMER INDEPENDENT MP AT WESTMINSTER AND BROTHER OF FR SEAN MCMANUS SAID THAT BRITISH OFFICIALS THERE WERE 'HOPPING MAD' OVER AN APPARENT CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON THE 'IRISH QUESTION.'

3. THE ARTICLE WAS CONCLUDED WITH A REPEAT OF THE INFORMATION WHICH APPEARED IN REF TEL. CURLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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